

The Baptist Record

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

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Published Since 1877

FMB: Overseas baptisms top 300,000 for first time

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Baptisms related to foreign mission work worldwide totaled 302,132 in

1994 — the first time annual baptisms have ever topped 300,000. That total also marks a tripling

of the annual harvest since 1980, the first year baptisms surpassed 100,000 in churches related to Foreign Mission Board missionaries. Baptisms topped 200,000 for the first time in 1987.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin put the 300,000-baptism milestone into evangelistic perspective:

"It probably represents well over 1 million professions of faith," he said. "Only a portion (of new converts) follow through immediately in baptism. We don't report professions of faith or try to compile them officially, but it indicates the level of evangelism being done and the level of response."

The 1994 baptism total is the fourth record year in a row, and shows a 15% increase over

1993's count.

It also represents actual growth compared to the previous year, without substantial additions from countries newly added to the count, according to FMB evangelism and church growth consultant Jim Slack, who compiled the 1994 statistical report.

"We are well past any 'clean-up' growth that we talked about in the past," Slack said. "1993 was mixed because we still had some former Soviet areas that were reporting for the first time and getting into the count. But this time it's strictly what has been produced on the ground. When your baptisms are not just churches reporting that never before have, this is new growth, and very strong."

Yet perhaps most significant of all, a still-small but steadily growing number of conversions and baptisms are occurring in places and peoples once considered entirely off-limits to the Christian gospel.

The Cooperative Services International arm of the Foreign Mission Board, which quietly ministers among the peoples of "World A" — the unevangelized world locked from "traditional" missions behind political, religious and cultural barriers — reported 3,809 baptisms.

That total may seem tiny, but it's a 500% jump over the 1993 total. And it includes the first known baptisms recorded in modern times among several people groups.

Missions results suggest Christ's return

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — While noting Scripture reveals it is not for man to know the time or the season for Christ's return, Jerry Rankin said it is a distinct possibility those living today could be the end-time generation who will see the bodily return of Christ.

Saying he has never gotten caught up in speculating about the time of Christ's return, Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said he has become "awesomely" aware of a missiological eschatology that may signal the approaching end time.

"Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a witness to all nations and then the end will come," Rankin told FMB trustees and students at Southeastern

Seminary Feb. 14.

"As we move toward the year 2000, every mission organization has been caught up in the prospect of fulfilling the Great Commission and that prophecy of Jesus by the close of the century."

While there is the subtle suggestion Christ might return as calendars click over to a new century, Rankin said he did not believe God was so enamored of the arbitrary digits of the Roman calendar to act on man's time.

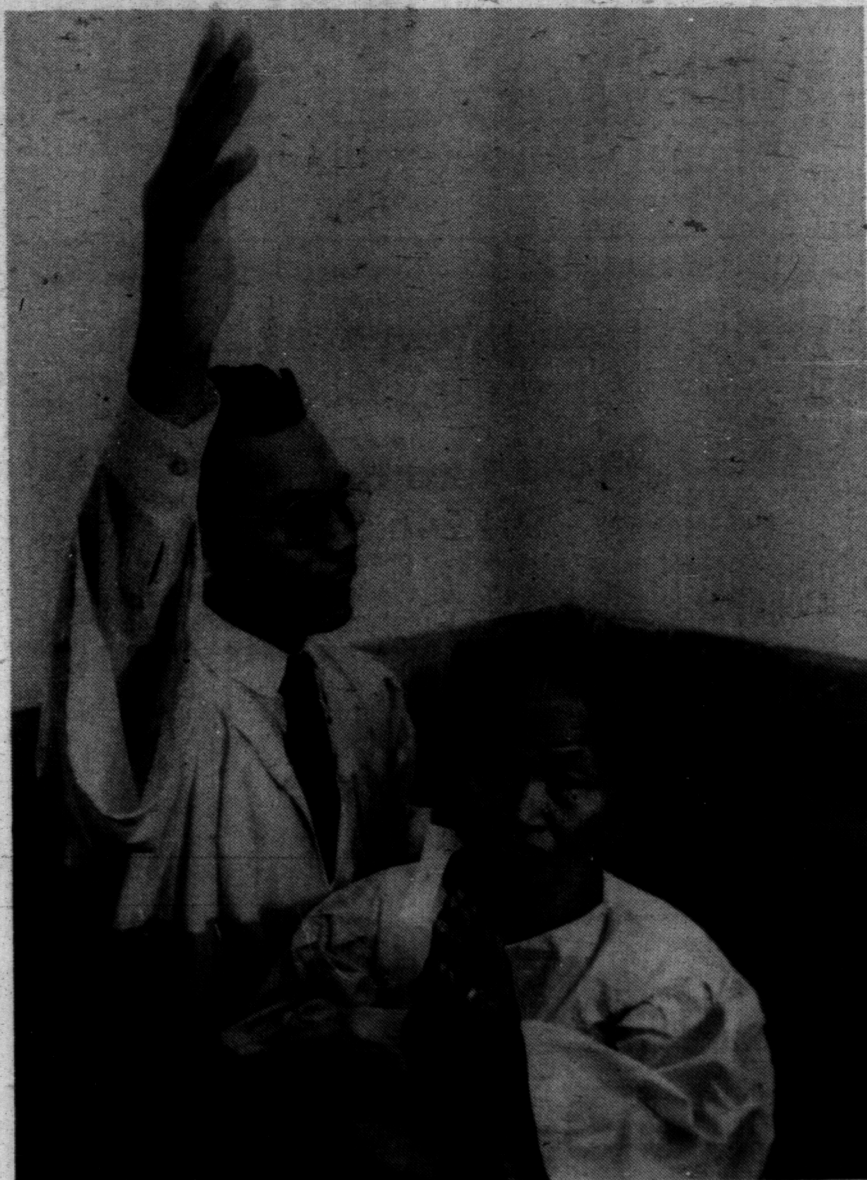
Whether it is the year 2000 or sometime in the 21st century, "there is every indication we are moving toward the fulfillment of that prophecy and the culmination of the kingdom," Rankin insisted in remarks at the Wake Forest, N.C., school.

He said at the end of 1994, 554

SBC missionaries had been deployed to previously unreached people groups, with 147 churches started among peoples who until recently had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rankin said the progress is not necessarily the result of sound FMB strategy and committed missionaries. "I see reflected the prophecy of Haggai that says God will shake the heavens and the earth, overthrow the powers of kingdoms, and destroy the thrones of nations so that his purposes might be fulfilled," Rankin said.

He pointed to the state of Southern Baptist foreign mission work as an example of God moving in providence and power. "He is calling us to be a part of that generation... who sees every nation touched by the gospel," he said.



ONE AT A TIME — Each baptism tells a story — of death and resurrection, of a new life, of Christ's redeeming love. This Indonesian woman's public declaration of her rebirth symbolizes the more than 300,000 other people who did the same in 1994 in overseas churches related to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work.

Prof elected president

Members of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada have chosen a Southern Baptist as president for only the second time in that organization's history. Paul Richardson, professor of church music at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said, "Of all the professional organizations I participate in, this is... the one I enjoy most." Southern Baptists — the largest denominational body in the Hymn Society — comprise about 20% of the group's 3,000 members. Membership is open to church musicians, pastors, scholars, hymn writers, poets, composers, and people who simply love hymns and congregational singing. "We accomplish professional aims, but membership is voluntary and includes all levels of expertise," he explained. Richardson highlighted the diversity of the organization, which includes Catholics, Episcopalians, mainline Protestants, Assemblies of God, Nazarenes, and others. The group's meetings are quite extraordinary, he reported. "The worship experiences that take place are indescribable... always inspiring," Richardson said.

Believe it!

More than six in 10 Americans have faith that Jesus Christ will return to earth and that Judgment Day awaits, according to a survey by the secular U.S. News and World Report magazine, and reported in its Dec. 19, 1994 issue. Survey subjects who described themselves as "born-again Christians" and frequent churchgoers held the strongest views about the Second Coming, the magazine reported. Other interesting survey results: 60% believe the Bible's warnings about Judgment Day should be taken literally; 59% believe the world will come to an end; 53% believe world events of this century (like world wars, conflicts involving Israel, and the AIDS epidemic) fulfill Bible prophecy; 49% believe the Bible accurately describes the Antichrist; 44% believe Armageddon will take place; and 44% await the rapture of the church. The survey, conducted by Market Facts, Inc., was used to illustrate the magazine's recent report on widespread interest in the end of the present millennium.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Bobby Kilpatrick, head basketball coach at Memphis State University, tells members of Calvary Church, Tupelo, that although the university's regents prohibit him from sharing his faith with his players, his lifestyle can influence the young men.

20 years ago

Newly-chartered Summit Baptist Church of Wiggins, Colo., takes its name in honor of First Church, Summit, Miss., whose members were instrumental in helping the small mission grow to become a self-supporting church.

50 years ago

For the third time in five years, Tallahatchie Association clerk J.H. Pennebaker is selected by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville as keeping the best meeting minutes in the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Covenant for a new century

In 1845 when the Southern Baptist Convention was organized, the Foreign Mission Board and Domestic Mission Board were also established. Across the years others were added until we had 19 institutions and agencies. We are no longer a small, rural, Southern denomination of churches.

Time has a way of assisting institutions in becoming bureaucratic and even cumbersome. The 38,000 SBC churches now have over 15,000,000 members and from time to time adjustments are needed.

All these things were in mind when the Program and Structure Committee was appointed. They made their report to the Executive Committee on Feb. 20, 1995. For many it was a bone-jarring event and had the effect of an exploding hand grenade.

Some good things are to be noted in the committee's report. The mission statement is great: "The SBC exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern

Baptist churches, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture, and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit." Of course, this has been the aim of the SBC for many years.

There are changes suggested and we must be willing to change. The organization of 1845 is hardly valid in 1995. Evidently there were hours of work and planning to produce such a report. The focus on ministries rather than program assignments is refreshing.

The make-up of the committee could leave one wishing for wider representation. There were seven men on the committee as appointed by Executive Committee Chairman Fred Wolfe.

There were no denominational institutions represented other than Al Mohler Jr. of Southern Seminary. No state executive directors were represented. No women were on the committee. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards had no representatives. No small churches or directors of missions were represented. The committee did con-

sult with agency heads and denominational and mission board executives. Apparently, they had little real input in the final results.

The Woman's Missionary Union was shunted to a sidetrack and left there while the SBC train moved on. WMU has been responsible for the promotion of the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings for years. This is now the responsibility of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. They may or may not ask the assistance of WMU.

Then, the timing was poor. The Executive Committee heard it one day and voted the next. "We cannot waver; it must be done at this meeting," was the comment. Agency directors found out about it only hours before it was made public.

A covenant for a new "century" deserves more consideration. It could be a good plan but obvious amendments and adjustments are needed. Presenting it as the final word with such little preparation leaves much to be desired.

Guest Opinion...

Angel Fair not so heavenly

By Larry S. McDonald

According to an Associated Press article in June 1992, when Andy Russell of Tarzana, Calif., passed away, his devoted three-year-old grandson Bobby wanted to know what happened to Grandpa. So the chore of explaining death fell to the boy's dad.

Dad said, "Bobby, God saw that Grandpa was very sick and so because he did not want him to hurt any more, he sent the angels to get him."

To which little Bobby, astonished and wide-eyed, replied, "The whole team?"

This humorous story points us to the fact that many people's knowledge of angels does not go much further than the major league baseball team. Because of this, individuals are susceptible to swallowing anybody's idea about the world of angels.

In fact, the more sensational the teaching, the more crowds flock to hear the latest fad about angels.

Such was the case recently as nearly 500 people attended the Angel Fair hosted by the Inner

Peace Movement at the Ramada Coliseum in Jackson.

Marilyn J. Ellis, an instructor with the Inner Peace Movement, said the Angel Fair was "an opportunity for people to learn how to communicate with their own angels." Ellis and other trained "sensitives" were available to help individuals hear from their angels.

Of course, there was a \$15 fee for up to three impressions.

As a person who for many years has studied religious trends, I have concluded that a key question is, "By what authority do you base your beliefs?"

For me, the answer for authority is found in the Bible, Old and New Testament.

The existence of angels is taught in at least 34 books of the Bible, and the word "angel" occurs about 275 times. Jesus both assumed and taught the existence of angels (Matt. 18:10 and 26:53).

Angels were created by God (Col. 1:16) as spirit beings (Heb. 1:14) who are distinct from human beings (Psalm 8:4-5).

There are innumerable angels (Heb. 12:22) who minister to Christians. These ministries involve a general ministry of aiding (Heb. 1:14); answering prayers (Acts 12:7); observation of Christ-

ian experiences (1 Cor. 4:9); encouragement in times of danger (Acts 27:23-24); interest in evangelistic effort of Christians (Luke 15:10), and care for the righteous at death (Luke 16:22).

In contrast to the Bible, the quasi-religious Inner Peace Movement teaches that an individual should seek to communicate with angels, especially with the help of "sensitive mediators."

Nowhere in the Bible do we find an example, encouragement, or command for an individual to seek out angels, much less have a need for a "sensitive" to help us.

The Bible does record instances where angels manifested themselves to individuals, but it was always with the angel initiating the encounter because of a directive from God.

The New Age-oriented Inner Peace Movement teaches that angels have graduated from earth to a higher plane.

The Bible is very clear that God is the one who created angels (Col. 1:16) as spirit beings (Heb. 1:14) and nowhere does it record them as graduating to a higher plane.

Lastly, the psychic-type Inner Peace Movement teaches that "angels are the key to solutions to

WIN ALL 1995 Season of Home Missions

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal \$50 million

SBC Home Mission Board Operating Costs

1994 Total Budget:
\$91,246,607

Cost per month:	\$7,603,884
Cost per week:	\$1,754,742
Cost per day:	\$249,991
Cost per hour:	\$10,416
Cost per minute:	\$174

Source: HMB Planning Section

THE FRAGMENTS

Dollars plus prayers

"Saving America to Save the World" was a much-used slogan a few years ago. Revival in America is still desperately needed.

The Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer and special offering is one way you can participate.

There are almost 5,000 home missionaries, mission pastors, field personnel, state staff, and mission service corps personnel.

They labor to "win all" in hundreds of unique ministries.

The Annie Armstrong goal this year is \$50 million. As WMU Executive Director Delanna O'Brien said, "Dollars without prayer support can never be as effective as those that are spent in the power of Christ."

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all things" and have the answers to our searching questions.

The word "angel" means messenger. The only message or answer an angel has would come from the one who sent him.

It is at this point that the Bible tells us to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1) because not all messages and

messengers are from God.

In the Bible, the angel's message always came from God and pointed people to him. A person, group, or movement who seeks angels as a solution to problems has been deceived.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

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Mississippians appointed to CSI by Foreign Mission Board

Two couples with Mississippi connections has been named as representatives of Cooperative Services International (CSI), an aid organization connected with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

Francis K. Horton III of Wesson and his wife Angie, a Brookhaven native, will serve in the development of CSI-related projects in southwest Asia. They are currently members of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

Francis Horton, who holds a

law degree from Mississippi College in Jackson and a bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University, attends New Orleans Seminary.

He previously served as staff attorney for the U.S. Trustee and for the U.S. Small Business Administration, both in Jackson.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F.K. Horton Jr. of Wesson, and considers Wesson Church his home church.

Angie Horton holds a bachelor of science degree from Mississippi

State University, and was previously an electrical engineer at Packard Electric Co. in Clinton and Mississippi Power and Light Company in Jackson.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hart of Brookhaven and considers Macedonia Church in Brookhaven her home church.

Alexander B. Credle Jr. of Cary, N.C. and his wife Shelby, who was born in Hattiesburg, will serve in the development of CSI projects in central Asia. They are currently members of First

Church, Cary, N.C.

Alexander Credle, who holds a bachelor of science degree from Clemson University in South Carolina and a master of business administration degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta, attends Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

He previously served as director of sales and marketing for a drug company in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Shelby Credle holds a bachelor of arts degree from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. and a master of arts degree from

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C.

She is currently serving as adjunct professor at Southeastern Seminary and as a visiting lecturer at North Carolina State University.

She is the daughter of the late Douglas and Velma Phelan. She considers Cary, N.C. her home town and First Church there as her home church.

The Hortons and Credles will attend a seven-week orientation at the FMB's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., before leaving for their assigned mission fields.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Questions remain, but agency heads impressed by restructure

By Bob Allen

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — The heads of agencies potentially affected by a massive restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention generally applauded its basic outline but said they will need more time to assess its full impact on the work of the 15 million-member denomination, the largest Protestant organization in the United States and the world.

The restructuring, if adopted by the SBC in consecutive annual meetings, would reduce the number of denominational agencies from the current 19 to 12 and focus more resources on church planting efforts of domestic and international mission boards. The plan was approved Feb. 21 by the SBC Executive Committee.

Jimmy Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, applauded the efforts of a blue-ribbon program and structure study committee, appointed two years ago by the Executive Committee's chairman, for its "attempt to structure the Southern Baptist Convention for the 21st century."

"I favor the report and support the committee," said Draper, whose agency is largely unaffected by the plan.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, director of the Protestant world's largest missions agency, commended the report for focusing denominational resources on missions and evangelism.

"I appreciate the affirmation not just for the Foreign Mission Board and for our staff but for the desire to bring Southern Baptists and our resources and all our agencies back together with that original mandate that brought us together 150 years ago," Rankin told reporters at a press conference.

Home Mission Board head Larry Lewis said it "appears" the recommendation "would address the areas of work now assigned to the Home

Mission Board and certainly has the potential for improved efficiency and effectiveness."

Lewis admitted, however, that he has "a number of questions" about the proposal and will "look forward to understanding better the details and ramifications of the recommendation."

Jack Johnson, president of the Radio and Television Commission, said the proposal to eliminate his Fort Worth-based agency and transfer its resources to a new mission board with responsibility for the United States and Canada poses "a problem with morale" for his staff.

"At the same time, I am excited about what I see as a potential for ministry to North America and the world," Johnson said.

"For me not to tell you I am excited about the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with millions of people would be foolish," Johnson said.

Brotherhood Commission President James Williams said he was "completely surprised" by the recommendation to dissolve his Memphis-based agency, with the assignment for men's missions going to the new North American Mission Board.

Stephen Carleton, executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission called it "an impressive and far-reaching plan for reorganization."

He predicted that even though his agency is on the chopping block, Baptist colleges and universities will continue to work with state conventions and "provide for the churches of this denomination thousands of new lay and clerical leaders each year."

Only one agency executive, Lynn May of the Historical Commission, registered outright disagreement with the committee.

May did not attend a press con-

ference with other agency heads but asked a staff member to read his statement.

"I cannot and will not support a recommendation for dismantling the Historical Commission and reassigning of some of its program assignments and functions to other agencies," May said.

May said under the proposal to transfer responsibility for the SBC's historical library and archives to the presidents of the six SBC seminaries, "the concerns of history will not have the priority they should have and must have in order to preserve the total history and heritage of Baptists in general and Southern Baptists in particular."

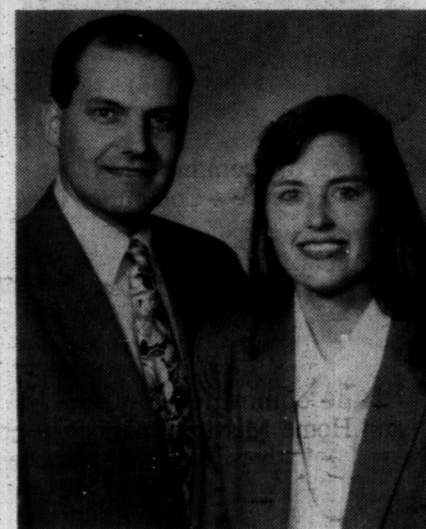
Don Wideman, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, warned that by encouraging established state conventions to assume greater responsibility for mission work in their states, while focusing national efforts in newer-work areas, the restructure could force larger states to reduce the amount of money they send to the North American Mission Board.

"That would be a tragedy if it would happen," said committee member Bob Sorrell, a staff minister at Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn.

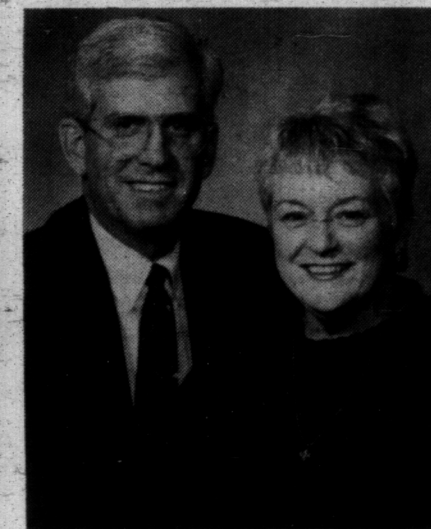
Greg Horton, a layman and founder of the Quincy's and Ryan's Steak House chains, advised executive directors "all this talk we're having today is just a bunch of rhetoric" if all Southern Baptist leaders "can't buy into our mission statement, ... if we don't believe in the Great Commission, if we are not willing to be under the lordship of Jesus Christ ..."

"Sir, that is not the concern," Wideman interrupted. "It is implementation."

Allen is associate editor of Associated Baptist Press.



Francis and Angie Horton



Alexander and Shelby Credle

Miss. missionary victim of Bangladesh robbery

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Mississippian Tom Thurman has become the fourth Southern Baptist foreign missionary in a month accosted by robbers on the mission field.

The string of incidents should remind Southern Baptists that 4,000 missionaries around the world are on the front lines of a spiritual warfare and need prayer for their ministries and safety, said Randy Sprinkle, director of the Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office.

Thurman, 61, of Montcello was stabbed in the hand Feb. 19 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in a struggle with a man who demanded his briefcase.

The slight injury required two stitches. Thurman, a 30-year veteran of missions, fulfilled a preaching assignment that evening, his son, Philip Thurman, a staffer at First Church, Jackson said in a telephone interview.

Three other Southern Baptist missionaries also recently reported attacks by robbers. On Jan. 20, Keith Stamps suffered serious shotgun injuries to his right arm and shoulder in a highway robbery attempt in Guatemala. On Feb. 8, Kristi Pennington was abducted and robbed at gunpoint in Caracas, Venezuela. The same day, Don

Cole was robbed at gunpoint and held hostage for about 45 minutes in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Stamps underwent a skin graft Feb. 16 and continues a painful recovery in Guatemala. Pennington and Cole were released unharmed.

"I can't remember when there's been such a string of

attacks on our missionaries," Sprinkle said. "As intercessors, it's important for us to heed (the Apostle) Paul's reminder that 'our struggle isn't against flesh and blood' and wield the

mighty weapon of prayer on behalf of all Christ's ambassadors around the world."

Thurman, an evangelist, was riding in an open, three-wheel taxi when another taxi pulled alongside and a passenger with a pistol demanded the briefcase. Thurman offered his money but refused to release the briefcase. A struggle ensued.

When a truck driver intervened, the attacker stabbed at Thurman with a knife and fled. Thurman was injured when he raised his hand in self-defense.

The incident occurred about a half mile from the Southern Baptist mission guest house near Dhaka.



Religious broadcasters shun Clinton over abortion, homosexuality issues

NASHVILLE (ABP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton wasn't invited to the National Religious Broadcasters convention again this year, but convention-goers could pick up free copies of *The Clinton Chronicles Book* in the exhibit hall after Sunday morning worship.

The Clinton Chronicles Book is the written form of the controversial video series promoted by televangelist Jerry Falwell.

The book and videos attempt to link Clinton to a bizarre history of criminal and sexual acts, including murder-for-hire, money launder-

ing, and numerous extra-marital affairs.

Clinton has dismissed the accusations as outlandish, as have numerous others both inside and outside the White House. Evangelical author Tony Campolo recently challenged Falwell to grant him equal air time to rebut the charges against Clinton, which have been given prominent play on Falwell's "Old Time Gospel Hour."

Although the NRB enjoyed cozy relationships with Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, the NRB and Clinton have been at odds from the start.

Reagan accepted invitations to address the NRB five times in his eight years as president, and Bush spoke to the group three times in his four years as president.

Both men were invited to the NRB every year of their presidencies.

The religious broadcasters invited Clinton, a Southern Baptist, to speak to their annual gathering in 1993, his first year as president. But the invitation came too late, or Clinton didn't see the need to accommodate the NRB, depending on who tells the story.

The next year, Clinton wasn't invited at all. And this year, the president was purposely left off the invitation list a second time.

NRB leadership issued a three-paragraph statement explaining why Clinton was not asked to this year's convention, despite a long-standing tradition of inviting the sitting president.

"During a White House briefing with Baptist leaders and religion journalists in October, President Bill Clinton again reiterated his position on the issues of abortion and homosexuality by claiming the Bible is 'ambiguous' about them. Statements such as these reaffirm our decision to withhold an invitation to address our convention from the president," NRB leaders said.

"We cannot give a platform to a leader who so aggressively supports and puts forth policies and positions which are blatantly contrary to Scriptural views," the NRB statement said.

Mathematician promotes high-tech Christians for 21st century witnessing

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Don't be a Flat Earth Society of Evangelicals, the president of Grand Canyon University recently told students at New Orleans Seminary.

Bill R. Williams, a mathematician and educator, delivered the seminary's 1995 Sharp Lectures, a series of sermons on "The Preacher from the Layman's Viewpoint," presented annually by a prominent Christian layman.

Williams has been president at Grand Canyon University since 1978.

The Phoenix, Ariz., school, one of 51 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities, is one of only two schools in the United States to have a hookup with the IBM Watson Center research computer, one of the world's largest computers. Cornell University is the only other school to have access to this "super computer."

"It is our responsibility to look down the road as far as we can," Williams said. Christians must be sensitive to God in prayer, "to let the Holy Spirit enlighten us, to move us forward (in expressing) the gospel in today's context."

This ability to communicate the gospel will require an awareness of new vocabulary and concepts, Williams said. Achieving that awareness "will take a tremendous amount of work," but the effort is essential "if we are going to be as effective as we can be," he said.

Williams told students they have the important task of preaching the gospel through every avenue of expression possible, and today's technology, he said, is opening up new avenues constantly.

"We've never been at such a wonderful point in history in terms of opportunities to present the gospel," said Williams, who has a doctorate in mathematics from Arizona State University.

"Science and mathematics influence everything around us," he said. "How we look at our physical world at any given time gives us the conceptualization to extend through word and thought how we speak and relate to those things beyond the finite and the physical. We can only do it through analogy, and those analogies come out of our physical world."

"Chaos" will be the guide word for the 21st century, Williams said. All areas — including technology, business, education, leadership, biology, psychology, and even the weather — face the chaos theory restructuring how everything is understood, he said. "We are experiencing an upheaval of our knowledge base second to none in history."

As the world enters the 21st century, preachers need to take advantage of all opportunities to keep up with the latest scientific technologies and terminologies, Williams said.



All Alone

A woman in the Osmania district of India sits in front of the remains of her home, a grim reminder of the loss of her husband, two sons, and a daughter in the powerful earthquake that struck the area on Sept. 30, 1994. The quake killed 10,000 people and damaged or destroyed 147 villages. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has earmarked \$100,000 to help Indian Baptists assist their neighbors in rebuilding their lives. (BP photo by Ernest Myers).

Zambia judge orders talks over work permit dispute

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — A judge has ordered Southern Baptist missionaries and Zambian Baptist leaders to resolve their two-year-old dispute over missionary work permits on their own.

The dispute, which was scheduled for trial in mid-November and has been postponed several times, is an internal church matter and should never have been brought to court, the judge told representatives of the two sides in a February hearing in his chambers.

After hearing statements from

missionary and convention leaders and asking several questions, the judge ordered the parties to try again to resolve their dispute amicably. He also directed that temporary work permits be issued until a final resolution is reached, according to missionary Bonita Wilson, acting administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Zambia.

The case concerns the refusal of Zambian immigration officials to renew work permits or issue new ones to Southern Baptists.

Foreign Mission Board appoints two for expanding role in student recruitment

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Two Southern Baptists with backgrounds in student work and missions have been tapped to help the Foreign Mission Board expand its efforts to involve students in foreign missions.

Mike Lopez, an administrator in the board's international service department, will head that department's student section. Lopez, 41, earlier worked in student ministries as a missionary in Taiwan with his wife Ann.

They also were home missionaries in Pennsylvania. They have two children.

Jeff Lewis, a Lopez consultant for national student ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named student and youth consultant.

Lewis, 42, will relate to the mission board's student section, working on contract from a location to be determined. He and his wife Elaine currently live in Mt. Juliet, Tenn. They have seven children.

Since 1990 Lopez, from High Springs, Fla., has promoted the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps and journeyman programs and directed screening conferences for applicants to those programs.

Most recently Lewis, from Columbus, Ohio, coordinated Mission 95, Southern Baptists' global mission conference held in December in Louisville, Ky. Before joining the national student ministry staff in 1990, he was associate director for Mission Service Corps at the Home Mission Board.

They begin their new assignments on March 1.

"We're seeing among college students a growing momentum of interest in missions that needs to be nurtured," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

"On college and university campuses, I believe God is raising up our next generation of missionaries. But the exciting thing is they don't have to wait until the future

(to serve). There are massive opportunities already available for students to impact a lost world for Christ," Rankin said.

Meanwhile, the International Service Department is reorganizing to increase its focus on nurturing students for mission service, said Wendy Norvelle, department director.

The shifts will help the Foreign Mission Board "reach more students and have more sustained, quality time with them," said Norvelle. "Before the turn of the century, they will be the young adults who will be our missionaries. And if we are going to fulfill the Great Commission, we need a lot more than 4,000 missionaries ready to give their lives" to missions.

That's the approximate number of Southern Baptist missionaries now assigned overseas.

The Foreign Mission Board has regular contact with about 2,800 Southern Baptist college students interested in foreign missions.

In addition, 408 students made commitments to mission service at Mission 95, which was attended by about 3,000 students.

About half of those commitments were for foreign missions.

Return to roots, Calvinists say

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptists should return to their Calvinistic roots, according to writers in the current issue of a publication being mailed to Southern Baptist pastors, seminary professors, and missionaries.

"Call it what you will — Calvinism, reformed theology, the doctrines of grace — these truths are nothing less than historic Southern Baptist orthodoxy," wrote Thomas K. Ascol, editor of *The Founders Journal* and pastor of Grace Church, Cape Coral, Fla.

Published by the Southern Baptist Founders Conference, a loose-knit network of Calvinists, the journal advocates a return by the SBC to such doctrines as election, predestination, the sovereignty of God, and the inability of man to repent and exercise faith unless God first regenerates him.

The reason churches have so many inactive and non-resident members is because many church members are not really Christians, Ascol said.



Lopez



Lewis

FMB adopts 7 basic principles to guide agency in 21st century

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board trustees sent a "valentine" to the world Feb. 14 as they appointed 44 new missionaries to join more than 4,000 others taking the love of Jesus Christ to millions of people around the world.

They also approved seven basic principles to undergird the board's missions program during their Feb. 13-15 meeting on the campus of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, who came home from the mission field in June 1993 to head the 150-year-old missions agency, challenged those appointed in the Valentine's Day service to make known the "mystery" of Jesus Christ on their far-flung mission fields.

"When we lived in Thailand, we would often observe Buddhist funerals in our own community,"

Rankin said, "and see the monks as they would encircle the casket, chanting over and over again: 'Dead, never to arise; gone, never to return; asleep, never to awaken.'"

"To them the gospel was a mystery," said Rankin. "God has called you to make known that mystery, to reveal the precious truth of the gospel."

The appointment service, the first held on the campus of a Southern Baptist seminary, highlighted enthusiastic student reaction during the three-day meeting. During the appointment service and seminary chapel services at least 51 people responded to invitations to commit to missions.

Meanwhile, trustees conducted business, including unanimous adoption of the seven principles after some revision from the floor. That included strengthening the second principle to emphasize

belief in the reality of hell.

Rankin noted that the principles and previously approved vision and mission statements grew out of a yearlong process of fine-tuning input from trustees, missionaries, and staff.

He urged their ratification to go along with the vision and mission statements in setting "the direction for this board as we move into the 21st century."

The principles declare:

"1. Our basic commitment is obedience to the lordship of Jesus Christ and God's infallible Word.

2. Our basic belief is that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for salvation and that people without personal faith in him are lost and will spend eternity in hell.

3. Our basic means of understanding and fulfilling God's mission is prayer.

4. Our basic purpose is to provide all people an opportunity to hear, understand, and respond to the gospel in their own cultural context.

5. Our basic task is evangelism through proclamation, discipling, equipping, and ministry that results in indigenous Baptist churches.

6. Our basic strategy is to send and support gifted, God-called missionaries who, with mutual respect, accountability, and cooperation, carry out the Great Commission in an incarnational witness.

7. Our basic role is to lead and facilitate the international missionary involvement of Southern Baptists in partnership with overseas Baptists and other Christians who are fulfilling the Great Commission."

Opponents vow fight over treaty signing

WASHINGTON (BP) — The United States ambassador to the United Nations recently signed the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, and opponents quickly attempted to halt its progress with a telephone campaign aimed at the Senate.

Ambassador Madeleine Albright signed the treaty Feb. 16, six days after First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the United States would endorse it. By the time Albright signed it, some home-schooling and pro-family organizations already had launched an opposition campaign aiming to shut down the Senate's switchboards.

While treaty supporters have said it is needed to protect children, some critics have charged the treaty's effect would be to damage the parent-child relationship.

After signing the treaty, Albright said its intention is to end the "many abuses committed against children around the world." The treaty's goal is the "opportunity for all children to enjoy adequate living conditions, to have access to education and health care, and to be free from exploitation and abuse," she said in prepared comments.

Michael Whitehead of the Christian Life Commission said the language might be "stretched by activist lawyers to expand government power over families."

"This treaty tries to do far, far more than just protect children from sexual and other abuse," said Whitehead, the CLC's general counsel. "It enumerates broad, sweeping rights which a child might assert against outsiders or against his own parents."

"Nothing in the history and purpose of the U.N. qualifies it to teach the world how to raise children."

The White House plans to attach "reservations and understandings" to the treaty before sending it to the Senate for ratification.

Whitehead said, however, the convention "states that any attempt by a party to make reservations will be invalid." Reservations are equivalent to unilateral amendments, he said.

Approval by the Foreign Relations Committee is questionable, largely because committee chairman Jesse Helms (R-NC) is an opponent of the treaty.

MBCB begins series of radio spots on "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares For You."

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus" is the theme of the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

One way the board is helping is in a new endeavor — witnessing on the radio.

The board has purchased several thousand radio spots for just over \$12,000 which are being aired on about 85 Mississippi radio stations.

The radio stations are affiliated with the Mississippi Network, which provides Mississippi news, sports, weather, and agricultural reports each day.

These spots are tied to the current 60 days of witnessing promoted by the Evangelism Department and the Home Mission Board in advance of the spring "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" simultaneous revivals in Baptist churches.

The first three in circulation include an invitation to listeners to come to church and study the Bible, which is "about imperfect people like us."

Another discusses whether we

are willing to talk about our relationship to God. And the third directly invites the listener to receive Jesus Christ into his or her heart. (See sidebar.)

The tag line at the end of the spots says, "From your Baptist

Thursday, March 2, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Making a point

Fred Wolfe (right), chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, answers a question during a press conference Feb. 21 for Baptist state paper editors as members of the Program and Structure Study Committee look on. Wolfe appointed the seven-member committee in the fall of 1993 in response to a motion referred from the SBC annual meeting. See article, page 3. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Alabama Baptists host Foreign Mission Board appointment service

Alabama Baptists are hoping for a capacity congregation of 9,000 people — their second largest gathering ever — for an April 28 foreign missionary appointment service in Huntsville.

Publicized as "Countdown Huntsville '95," the service will be held at 7 p.m. in Von Braun Civic Center, after the conclusion of a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board.

Former foreign missionary Bill

O'Brien, director of the Global Center at the Beeson School of Divinity of Samford University, said an appointment service serves two purposes.

"It helps personalize missions, and it symbolizes the larger covenant body supporting those they send out," O'Brien said.

Organizers hope the "personalizing" of the service will encourage young people in particular to attend. A missions youth rally has been planned following the service, and many of the missionaries who will be appointed have agreed to be there.

The largest Baptist group ever assembled in Alabama was the 13,400 people who attended the state's last Southern Baptist missionary appointment service April 13, 1982, in Birmingham.

For the 33 missionaries who were appointed then, the service brings back vivid memories.

"It was unbelievable that so many Baptists would pull together for this purpose," said Mark Robbins, who with his wife Dianne was appointed in 1982 and who now has been in Ecuador for 13 years. "Since that time, we have met or received letters from people who said, 'I was there and made a covenant to pray for you, and I have been praying all this time.'"

Charles T. Carter, attendance committee chairman, said, "When I was on the Foreign Mission Board I remember going with the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to an appointment service. He told me, 'You know, I've been a Southern Baptist all my life, but I never fully comprehended what the Foreign Mission Board is all about until I came to this service.'"

Radio Spot #3

They say that some of us will be surprised when we get to heaven to see that certain others will be there. And we might admit that some others will be surprised to see us there. Thank God none of the others get to judge us on whether or not we get in.

In the Bible — John 3:16 — Jesus says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

That person is Jesus. Eternal life is dependent on belief in Jesus as the Son of God and acceptance of him as Lord and Savior. That's it — no other requirements. Not even your past behavior affects your destination. A thief being hanged on a cross beside Jesus was accepted into God's kingdom.

And you can be also. Don't put it off. In fact, you can pray right now to receive Jesus Christ into your heart. If you want help with this, find a Christian friend or a minister to walk you through it. It will change you forever.

From your Baptist friends in Mississippi. Watch for a "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" revival in your area.

Gambling's costs catastrophic, economist tells Texas body

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP) — The social costs of gambling, if applied throughout the United States, would equal one Hurricane Andrew every year, according to economist Earl Grinols.

Grinols, who served as research economist for the Department of the Treasury and senior economist for the Council of Economic Advisors in the Reagan administration, was featured speaker at a legislator/constituents breakfast held during the annual statewide conference of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

More than 50 Texas lawmakers attended the breakfast at First Church, Austin.

Gambling's social costs total at least \$100-to-\$300 per adult each year in any area where gambling has been prevalent for three to five years, said Grinols, professor of economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These costs include regulation, lost productivity, and direct crime costs such as apprehending, adjudicating, and incarcerating criminals.

Citing estimates by the American Insurance Institute, Grinols said 40% of all white collar crime has its roots in gambling, and \$1.3 billion annually in insurance fraud is due directly to gambling. "That works out to a little bit more than

\$10 per working person in the country each year," he said.

States considering expanding forms of legalized gambling can learn from those states where gambling has been prevalent for an extended time, Grinols said. For example, Nevada has the nation's highest rate of suicides, drop-outs,

child deaths by abuse, and deaths per vehicle mile driven.

Most casinos are taxed at only the 20% rate, Grinols said. If they were fully taxed at the maximum rate of 40% of gross revenues, the social costs would be reduced, but casino gambling still would cost \$2.25 to \$4.75 in social costs for

every dollar raised, Grinols said.

Gambling can bring economic development only through the "beggar thy neighbor" practice of sucking money out of other regions if there is a nearby population base from which to draw, Grinols said. For instance, Las Vegas draws from Southern California,

Atlantic City draws from Philadelphia, and Tunica, Miss., draws from Memphis.

Noting the presence of major casinos in other states, he said it is "virtually certain" that legalization of casinos in Texas would not result in economic expansion or creation of jobs for the state.



Mississippi College

"Harold Bryson is one of the most knowledgeable professors of preaching in the United States today. He also has an exceptional ability of communicating what he knows to his students. This is a great addition to the faculty at Mississippi College. It shows that Dr. Todd is serious about church-related vocational students. The entire Mississippi Baptist family will be blessed by Dr. Bryson's coming back to his native state."

Dr. Rex Yancey, Pastor
First Church, Pascagoula
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention

"Dr. Bryson's appointment signals a major emphasis that Mississippi College is placing on Christian Studies. I applaud the decision to seek him, and I am pleased that he accepted our invitation to join the faculty."

Harry Vickery, Chairman
Mississippi College Board of Trustees

"It's great to be in the center of God's will. That's what my friend, Harold Bryson, said about his move to Mississippi College. I am so excited that God has placed him in the midst of a fine faculty in the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy. It is no secret how much he loves teaching in the classroom. Our students will be blessed by the life of this man who is a noted author, outstanding preacher-teacher, and one who is so respected by his peers."

Dr. Frank Gunn, Pastor
First Church, Biloxi
Member, MC Board of Trustees

"I'm pleased to know that Dr. Harold Bryson will be joining our MC Family. His coming, coupled with an already capable faculty in the Department of Christian Studies, indicates a strong emphasis to this foundational aspect of Mississippi College."

Dr. Gordon H. Sansing, Pastor
First Church, Vicksburg
Member, MC Board of Trustees

"The impact of adding Dr. Harold Bryson to the Mississippi College faculty will be extremely far reaching. Students will have access to one of Southern Baptists' premier teachers and preaching professors. His experience and expertise will prove beneficial to all Mississippi Baptists."

Dr. Jimmy Porter, Pastor
First Church, McComb
Member, MC Board of Trustees

"Having a premier Bible teacher and preaching professor of the caliber of Dr. Harold Bryson joining the faculty at Mississippi College is truly good news for all Mississippi Baptists."

Rev. Barry Corbett, Pastor
First Church, Kosciusko
Member, MC Board of Trustees

"I consider Harold Bryson to be one of the leading preachers among Southern Baptists, and the premier teacher of preachers in our denomination."

Dr. Byron Malone, Pastor
Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson
Member, MC Board of Trustees

"Having Harold Bryson on the Christian Studies and Philosophy faculty at Mississippi College is a cause of celebration for every one of us. We believe the addition of a preacher and teacher with Dr. Bryson's gifts brightens the future for the students at MC and all those they will later serve."

Dr. Loyd Allen, Chairman
Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy
Mississippi College

SWBTS to appeal probation

FORT WORTH (BP) — Southwestern Seminary will appeal the probation ruling issued earlier this month by the Association of Theological Schools, according to the seminary's president, Ken Hemphill.

"It is in the best interest of Southwestern to participate in the appeals process to present our case," Hemphill said Feb. 14.

The Commission on Accrediting, an arm of ATS, has placed the seminary on a two-year probation, citing concerns about presidential evaluation and trustee accountability to constituencies, academic freedom, and faculty tenure and promotion. Probation does not mean a loss of accreditation, according to Hemphill and Daniel O. Aleshire, associate director of the commission.

ATS soon will be informed officially of the seminary's decision to appeal, Hemphill said.

Steps in the appeals process include consultation with at least three representatives of the commission, followed by a written notice to the ATS appeals panel. The five-person panel is composed of former members of the commission or the agency's executive committee.

Within 120 days of receiving written notice, the panel must arrange for a hearing on the commission's findings. The seminary and the commission have the right to representation in person before the panel. The decision of the panel is final and binding.



Mississippi College

Office of the President

Dear Mississippi Baptists,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Harold T. Bryson, one of the foremost Bible scholars and preaching consultants in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be joining the Mississippi College faculty on March 1, 1995. Dr. Bryson will bring a distinguished record of teaching, writing, and preaching to our already outstanding faculty at Mississippi College, and our future in Christian studies and outreach is an exciting one. His seventeen years at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary resulted in his teaching and mentoring many Mississippi Baptist pastors, and he has continued that contact for the past four years in serving as preaching and worship consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. In many ways, this is a homecoming for Dr. Bryson. He is a native of Tupelo and a graduate of Mississippi College, and he has pastored several churches in Mississippi.

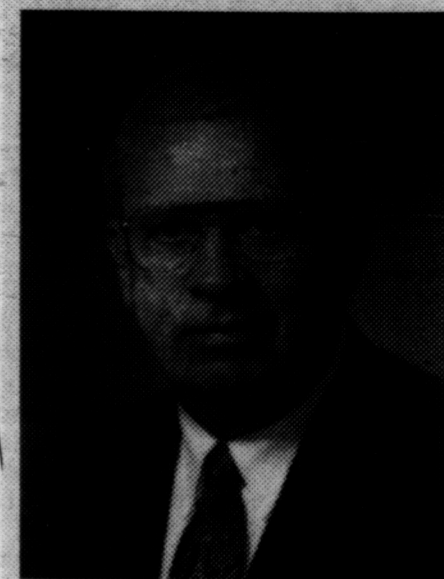
One of our professors is retiring this year, and in conversations with several Mississippi Baptist pastors, I asked for suggestions on a replacement. Without exception, Dr. Bryson's name was mentioned as the premier choice. He will be actively involved in the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, including teaching some introductory Bible courses, and this ensures that our Mississippi College students will have an opportunity to study with him. In addition, Dr. Bryson will lead the development of MC's outreach to Mississippi pastors through conferences and seminars.

I appreciate the support of Mississippi Baptists, and I truly believe that the best years are ahead for Mississippi's flagship Baptist institution.

Cordially,

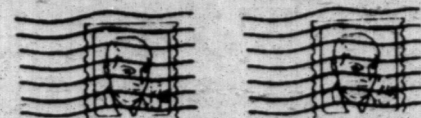
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Letters to the editor



Prayer in schools?

Editor:

I first learned about prayer in Ecru, Miss., the site of a current public controversy over prayer which has become national in scope. I was born there, into a family who cherished prayer and was deeply devoted to the Baptist church. We were also a family who valued public education.

I cannot imagine being told that I couldn't pray because prayer is not just a moment of silence for me; it has become part of who I am. Therefore, I sympathize with all of you who feel that your right to prayer is in jeopardy, but I am troubled that some of those who are learning to pray where I first learned believe that they have a constitutional right to be led in prayer and Bible study by government workers on government time to the exclusion of some who pray differently than they do.

I would think that Christians would be most sensitive to the plight of those who feel that they are being told how and when to pray by any government, no matter how benevolent. Perhaps we simply haven't told the story enough of our predecessors who for thousands of years have faced public exclusion, ridicule, and death for their refusal to pray as

the government told them to.

I applaud the Herdahl family for knowing the difference between a watered-down government-sponsored prayer and the life-changing prayer taught by their church, and I wish that we all knew our own traditions so well.

Indeed, although I was first taught to pray by one who supervised the public schools there in Ecru, I don't think the public school is the forum where true prayer can be taught.

I sincerely hope that no one will hear me saying that our children should not have the right to prayer. Instead, I ask that we consider that our predecessors died, not in seeking the right to pray but out of what they believed was an obligation to pray as our Lord taught them.

L. Roland Wilson
Atlanta, Ga.

Preparing churches

Editor:

The letter from M.L. Jones in the Feb. 16 edition of *The Baptist Record* inspires a vital area of discussion for every church. His concern was how our churches look to others when we incorporate the Super Bowl into Sunday activities.

This subject offers an excellent springboard to consider a broader issue.

We can all agree that one of the church's vital missions is to reach people for Christ, as well as that we must have standards of conduct in outreach. At the same time, I'm reminded of Paul's exhortation: "I have become all things to all men that I might by all possible means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22b, NIV). Paul had learned — as we must learn — the secret of adapting to changing times, cultures, and circumstances. The reason that this is necessary is found in the verse that follows it — for the sake of the gospel.

There's the issue — how will our churches adapt for the sake of the gospel? And why do we automatically assume that if a church has a Super Bowl Sunday activity that they are guilty of compromising, secularizing, or rationalizing the Sabbath? Perhaps they have simply followed Paul's sound advice or listened to Jesus' admonition concerning the Sabbath found in Mark 2:27.

Bottom line — all around us there are churches which have plateaued or begun to decline. I wonder how many of these congregations have decided that innovative ideas which attract people, but violate our comfort zones,

have no place in God's house? Are we so determined to prevent the church from being "conformed" that we are unable to recognize God's attempt to make her "transformed"? What are the churches of today prepared to do for the sake of the gospel?

Bob Chichester
Pascagoula

Dismayed by coverage

Editor:

I am dismayed at your continuing lambasting of conservative leaders while passing accolades in behalf of Roy Honeycutt, former Southern Seminary president, and the lamented Molly Marshall, past associate professor of the same institution.

I had the opportunity to view the two during panel discussions of our Sunday School lessons on the ACTS TV network several times in recent years. I keep thinking about one lesson the panel discussed on being humble. Dr. Honeycutt stressed in opening and closing statements during the lesson that being humble was not a good title for the lesson since "being humble is usually a sign of weakness." I wonder what book he

had been reading. Surely it wasn't the Bible.

In the discussions of other lessons I heard Molly Marshall call the Bible ridiculous on at least two occasions. One was regarding David's taking of Bathsheba in Nathan's parable, 2 Samuel 12, about the rich man with many flocks and the poor man with nothing but one ewe lamb, which was slaughtered. Molly said, "That's ridiculous, comparing a woman with a sheep."

She used the same term in response to 2 Thessalonians 3:10 where Paul said in effect that he who will not work let him also not eat. I was glad to hear one member of the discussion panel take issue with her on that one.

If the above are indications of the two's beliefs, is it any wonder that a lot of us Bible believers weren't sorry to see them depart our seminary?

Paul Warner
Brandon

Editor's note: The Baptist Record seeks to report the news, not lambast or praise anyone. When there is a blatant political activity we also seek to report that. If you will write Honeycutt or Marshall, I'm sure they will place some isolated statement in the proper context.

CBF council sets \$10 million budget, new mission statement

WESTLAKE, Texas (BP) — The coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship approved a \$10 million budget for fiscal 1995-96 and the group's first comprehensive mission statement.

Those and other actions were taken at the council's regular meeting, Feb. 15-18, at the Marriott Solana Hotel in Westlake, a Fort Worth suburb. The CBF is an organization of moderate Baptists, formed in 1991, in protest of the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The budget and mission statement will be presented to the fledgling denomination's annual meeting in Fort Worth, July 20-22.

After three years of rapid financial increase, the new budget reflects an apparent stabilizing of the CBF's growth. The recommended \$10,062,252 budget applies to a new fiscal year adopted by the CBF, July 1 to June 30. Prior years had been the calendar year. The CBF's transitional six-month budget, Jan. 1 to June 30, 1995 is \$5.6 million.

The budget compares to the group's \$10,955,212 in contributions received from 1,337 churches and individuals in 1994. The CBF received \$10,944,328 from 1,210 churches and individuals in 1993. The slight increase of \$10,884, or .1%, is a sharp reduction from the 50 and 60% increases in '93 and '92.

Also, comparing all dollars received by the CBF in 1994 — \$11,164,848 — there was an actual decrease from 1993 — \$11,214,961 — of \$50,113.

In his report to the council, CBF coordinator Cecil E. Sherman called the 1994 small total increase "deceiving," because the CBF part of the budget gained "19.72% over last year (1993)." The CBF benefited by the SBC mid-1994 decision not to accept funds channeled through the CBF causing a larger part of the receipts to be used in the CBF budget.

The new budget presupposes approval in July of a new four division structure of the CBF: (1) global missions, (2) Baptist principles (theological education, Associated Baptist Press, Baptists Today and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs), (3) church resources (ministry to ministers, Christian education, ethics and public policy, and laity), (4) and administrative.

The approval of a "mission statement" for the CBF indicated

the group's latest attempt to define itself in a comprehensive statement.

The "statement" begins with a paragraph called "Our Mission" which says: "We are a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. Our mission is to network, empower and mobilize Baptist Christians and church-

es for effective missions and ministry in the name of Christ."

Listed in the four-page document as statements of commitments the group shares are: soul freedom, Bible freedom, church freedom, and religious freedom.

However, the needed changes in the CBF's constitution and bylaws for the transition drew intense debate and the recommendations were finally tabled until the meeting in July 1995.

Sherman says CBF is not denomination or protest

WESTLAKE, Texas (BP) — "We are not a denomination. We are not a protest movement, either. We are something different, other."

Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), gave that assessment of the four-year-old organization at its coordinating council Feb. 15-18 meeting in Westlake, Texas, a suburb of Fort Worth.

Sherman also gave a report on church participation in CBF from each state.

"We lost ground in eight states, did not change in 13 states, and gained in 16 states. I believe CBF can and should gain in church par-

ticipation for another five years. If we plan and work to grow, we will grow," Sherman said.

He cited the gains, primarily from North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

"In these states we have a favorable state convention," Sherman pointed out.

"Gains in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Oklahoma are significant. The climate is harsh; our people did good work," Sherman said. He cited Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and South Carolina "in need of special care/work."

Of the totals, 287 churches in North Carolina contributed, 243 in Virginia, 194 in Texas, and 124 in Georgia. Those with more than 20 churches: Kentucky had 87, South Carolina had 81, Tennessee had 62, Missouri had 49, Alabama had 38, Mississippi had 25, and Arkansas had 20.

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Just for the Record



Happy Birthday

The children's department of Belden Church, Lee Association, celebrated Christmas 1994 with a birthday party for Jesus at a local skating rink — the first time the skating rink ever had a party in honor of Jesus. Don Baggett is pastor.

New-look SBC statistics make debut in first Annual Church Profile listing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The annual report of Southern Baptist Convention statistics usually includes numbers from 10 ministry areas, accompanied by information on gains and losses from the previous year.

Not so for 1994.

Dramatic changes in the reporting process, separate reporting of churches and missions and

changes in data collection and verification made the 1994 figures statistically noncomparable with the numbers of previous years, according to Cliff Tharp, supervisor of the strategic information unit at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Even the name has changed from Uniform Church Letter to Annual Church Profile (ACP).

The Miss Mississippi College Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss Mississippi Scholarship Pageant, will be held March 4 at 7 p.m. in Swor Auditorium on the campus of Mississippi College. For more information, call (601) 925-3190.

Clarke College classes of 1959, 1960, and 1961 are planning a reunion on July 21. For more information, contact JoeAnn Fleming at 3087 Millsaps Road, Crystal Springs, MS 39059. Telephone: (601) 892-3824.

Homecomings

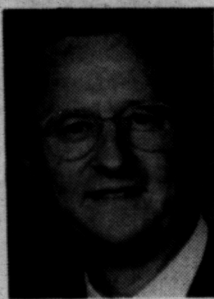
Monticello Church (Lawrence): April 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Tim Rayburn, former pastor, will bring the morning message; lunch will be served following the worship service.

Former Wm. Carey, Clarke staffer to head Mo. college

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP) — Woodrow Burt was named the 16th president of Hannibal-LaGrange College Feb. 9 during a news conference on the school's Hannibal, Mo., campus.

Burt, 48, was interim president of HLG following the retirement of Paul Brown last June 30. He has served Hannibal-LaGrange in various capacities during two different periods, most recently as executive vice president/chief development officer since July 1991 and Burt executive vice president/academic dean, 1987-91. From 1976-84 he held positions of dean of student affairs, associate academic dean, registrar, director of admissions and speech communications teacher.

Previous college positions held by Burt include assistant director of development at Southeast Missouri State University; vice president for student development at William Carey College in Hattiesburg; and director of admissions and dean of men at the former Clarke College in Newton.



Burt holds a doctor of philosophy degree in higher and adult education from the University of Missouri in Columbia where he also received an educational specialist degree.

He received a master of education degree and a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in Clinton.

In addition to community efforts, Burt serves on the Missouri State Governor's Advisory Council and is a trustee of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Commenting on his selection by the HLG trustee board, Burt said, "I appreciate the confidence they have placed in me to lead this fine institution." He said the emphasis during his tenure at HLG would be on achieving excellence and building a reputation for HLG in both the region and beyond. "Having served 23 years in higher education on four different college campuses and in a variety of responsibilities, I believe I am equipped for the challenges ahead," he said.

Hannibal-LaGrange is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention. Established in 1858, it has an enrollment of approximately 950 students.

"We have completely re-engineered the process," Tharp said.

For 1994, the SBC statistics include only totals for the year.

Tallying increases or decreases from 1993 figures would be misleading, he emphasized.

Church totals for 1994 include:
— churches: 39,910.
— baptisms: 378,463.
— total church membership: 15,619,912.

— ongoing Sunday school enrollment: 8,263,558.

— discipleship training enrollment/participation: 2,223,955.

— ongoing music ministry enrollment/participation: 1,841,583.

— ongoing Woman's Missionary Union enrollment/participation: 1,104,706.

— Brotherhood enrollment/participation: 646,028.

— total tithes, offerings, and special gifts: \$5,572,451,828.

— total mission expenditures: \$815,640,533.

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Revival Dates

Mashulaville, Macon: March 5-8; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Andre Dobson, Louisville, evangelist; Charles (Chuck) Cotton, Macon, music; Olyn F. Roberts, pastor.

Harmony, Crystal Springs: March 5-8; services, Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Jim Lott, Pearl, music; Clark Stewart, pastor.

Pace (Bolivar): March 12-15; Bill Hurt, Canton, evangelist; Dwayne & Brenda Sims, Jackson,

music; Jimmy Breland, pastor.

New Hope, Starkville: March 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dan Robertson, Pontotoc, preaching; Archie Chessier, Starkville, music; Bob Brandon, pastor.

Chester Church, Ackerman: March 5-8; Monday-Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Charles Hampton, pastor, First Church, Florence, preaching; Shane Price, pastor, Crestwood Church, Booneville, music; David Grisham, pastor.

Henry seeks nominations for SBC committee posts

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry has set a mid-March deadline for accepting recommendations for nominations to SBC committees on resolutions, tellers, committees, and credentials.

Henry has encouraged individuals in Southern Baptist churches to send him recommendations and "be a part of this opportunity for direct input in the appointive process." He will appoint members to the SBC committee on committees, committee on resolutions, tellers committee, and the credentials committee.

Henry had indicated he is seeking qualified individuals from across the SBC for consideration.

Henry said there are special forms for the recommendation

process and they can be secured by writing:

Jim Henry
SBC President
First Baptist Church
3701 L.B. McLeod Road,
Orlando, Florida 32805

When requesting the forms, write "form" on the envelope to facilitate handling, Wayne Johnson, assistant pastor/media, said.

Forms must be totally completed for consideration, Johnson said.

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LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My anger knows no limits. I have driven away family and friends and am now all alone. How can I overcome this awful compulsion?

Anger is like a warning light on the dashboard of your car. When the light glows — when anger rages — your first question should be, "What is wrong?"

Here are some things for which you should look:

— Physical difficulties. When was the last time you had a medical physical?

— Emotional changes. Have you encountered bad times or hurting relationships? Are you grieving over something?

— Stress. Are you feeling overloaded, overburdened, or overpressured?

— Unrealistic expectations. Who are you trying to please? For whom are you living your life?

Once anger sets in, it can become a compulsion because of the tremendous power in anger. With anger (aggressive or passive), a person can control other people.

Break the cycle by praying, exercising, beginning a journal, starting a hobby, and finding an accountability partner with whom

you feel comfortable in sharing your hurts, needs, frustrations, and injustices. These are all things that cause anger.

Are couples supposed to make plans and set goals to make their love and marriages last forever?

This is a difficult issue, because when it comes to relationships we assume spontaneity and freshness abound. Making plans seems so cold and rigid. Yet there is a side of a relationship that insists two people take the time to see where they are going in their marriage. Marriages require communication and interaction to develop a sense of belonging and comfort. Without these two ingredients, a relationship will flounder with no direction. A couple doesn't have to decide each week their goals and objectives, but there must be open dialogue that allows discussion to center on the needs and wishes of the two people involved. Relationships require active participation by both parties. As partners share interests, they understand each other and develop a sense of belonging and excitement.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Names in the News

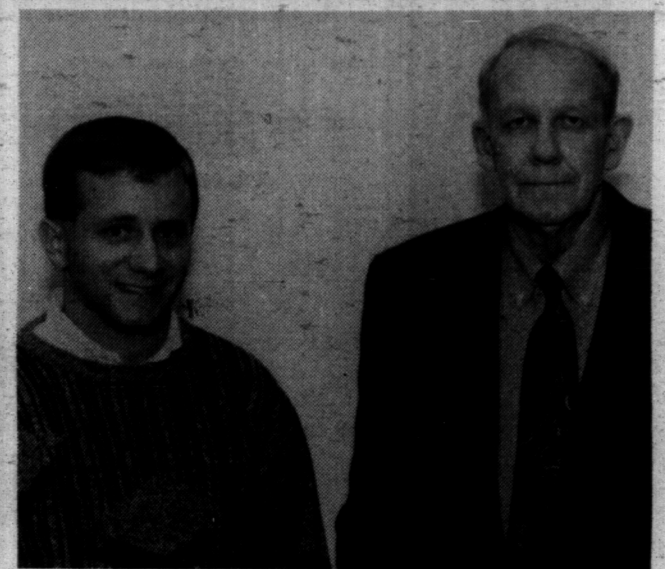


Enterprise Church, Enterprise, held a reception to honor the following women for their years of service. Pictured, from left, are Sarah Smith, two years as secretary; Virginia Clay, 33 years as church clerk; Maggie Fairchild, 15 years as records secretary; and Merle Chisolm, 28 1/2 years as treasurer. The church gave the women engraved silver trays. Also, presently serving as church secretary/treasurer is Kathy Anderson (not pictured) and as church clerk, Jonie Kidd (not pictured). Frank R. Trotter is pastor.

Robin Flood Fincher, soprano, will be presented in a guest recital at William Carey College's Dumas Smith Auditorium at 7 p.m. on March 3. She will also teach a masterclass on March 4. Both sessions are free of charge. Call (601) 582-6175 for more information.

O.B. Robertson, pastor of Military Church, Sumrall, will be honored by the congregation with revival services Feb. 26-March 1, featuring his five favorite sermons. Robertson's son Wayne of Thousand Oaks, Calif., will lead the music. Robertson will retire from the pastorate and be available for interims, Bible studies, and revivals. He may be contacted at (601) 264-6623.

Denise Riley, vocal performance major from Rankin County, will present her senior voice recital



Mississippi College mathematics senior Stanley C. McCaa, (left), of Lucedale, and Bill Hicks, professor of history and political science, received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature during the eighth annual HEADWAE program. They were among 77 students and faculty members from Mississippi's universities, colleges, and sectarian and proprietary institutions, to be honored. The observance, known as Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence, was established in 1988 to honor individual academic achievement and the overall contribution by the state's public and private institutions of higher learning. Hicks began his 31st year as professor at MC in the fall of 1994.

at Mississippi College on March 7 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on campus. The recital is free. Riley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Riley of Oxford.

Robert B. Sloan has been named president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, by that school's board of regents. Herbert H. Reynolds, who earlier announced his May 31 retirement, will become Baylor Chancellor. Sloan is currently dean of The George W. Truett Theological Seminary, professor of religion, and The George W. Truett Professor of Evangelism.

Widow's lawsuit claims Tunica gambling led to suicide

By Brian Smith

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Can casinos be held responsible for the actions of compulsive gamblers

whose addictions they feed?

At least one person thinks so, and she has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the Splash casino of Tunica.

Debra Kimbrow, 37, filed the suit Dec. 8, one year to the day after her husband Eric, 43, committed suicide.

He had rung up debts to Splash totaling more than \$100,000 over a two-year period.

A second reported gambling-related suicide occurred Feb. 1 in

the city of Collinsville, Ill.

"Kate," a 40-year-old mother of two, shot herself in the head after losing her family's life savings on two St. Louis-area riverboat casinos.

In an "Eye on America" segment of the CBS Evening News aired Jan. 31, Kimbrow's widow claimed his suicide resulted from despondency over his gambling problem, which included losing the cash he had in his wallet the day he died.

"When he lost that last \$40, I think he went home and killed himself because he had nothing left," she said.

Mrs. Kimbrow, a member of Hickory Ridge Church, Memphis, said she believes the casino knew her husband had a gambling problem and should have done something about it.

Her attorney, James Brookman of Memphis, said "it doesn't take

a rocket scientist" to see that Splash should have known Kimbrow was unable to control his gambling habit.

"Being overextended on your credit limits and writing bad checks and not being able to get any more money from your credit card is not something you'd have to be a psychologist to figure out," Brookman said.

In the month prior to his death, Kimbrow bounced three checks to Splash, one of nine casinos in the Tunica area.

In the CBS News report, Mrs. Kimbrow displayed more than \$3,000 worth of checks written to Splash.

Records show Kimbrow often withdrew \$400 at a time from casino ATM machines, received hundreds of dollars in advances against his MasterCard and obtained at least \$10,000 in personal loans in

the months before he died.

His wife said letters from Splash's credit department demanding payment for about \$1,000 worth of checks that had been returned for insufficient funds concluded with words of thanks: "We appreciate your patronage."

"They want him back even after he writes them bad checks," she said. "They want more — their greed is insatiable."

Chuck Quarles, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, said the Kimbrows' two children, ages 5 and 7, were devastated.

"I wish I could find words to describe the trauma the death has caused the family," he said.

The trauma of suicide also is being experienced by Kate's family in Illinois.

According to the Feb. 19 Kansas City Star newspaper, her husband, Steve, was called at work and told by Collinsville police to return home, where Kate's suicide note was taped to the front door.

The note was found by Madison County Sheriff's officers who were there to evict the family.

Smith writes for WORD AND WAY, the news journal of Missouri Baptists.

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Uniform Speaking spiritual truth



By Greg Potts
1 Corinthians 2

Southern Baptists have always been very evangelistic. This is seen in the emphasis we place on revival meetings, missions, Vacation Bible School, and other evangelistic efforts. Paul provides some insight on evangelism in our text.

If there was ever a problem church, it was Corinth. Corinth had a reputation for its loose morals and "anything goes" mentality.

Paul confronted these attitudes while preaching in Corinth. Later, he learned of some problems in the church and wrote the first letter to the Corinthians to address them. One problem was a lack of unity. Groups supporting different former pastors had divided the church.

Paul appealed to the church to come together around the cross of Christ. He then reminded them that each pastor had preached Jesus and that no one should worship a pastor. Paul then said that during his ministry, "I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (v. 2).

In the ensuing verses, Paul talked about his preaching. He provided helpful insight into evangelism.

The person of his preaching (vv. 1-2). Paul said that he focused his preaching on Jesus. The preaching of the early Christians consisted of the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus, and the return of Jesus. Then, an appeal was made to repent and believe in Jesus.

Paul repeated this order later in 1 Corinthians 15 when he said, "I make known to you the gospel... that Christ died for our sins... that he was buried..., that he was raised." That is the essence of the gospel.

The power of his preaching (vv. 3-5). Paul reminded the Corinthians that when he was preaching in Corinth, he did not do it with superior eloquence or with superior wisdom, but that he relied upon the power of the Spirit. This is a note of encouragement for anyone who has wanted to teach Sunday School but was afraid they were not eloquent enough. If one possesses the gift of teaching, is available and willing to teach if called upon, and devotes time to spiritual and exegetical preparation, God can use him or her.

Exegetical preparation is very important in preaching and teaching. However, one must not overlook the importance of spiritual preparation. One can share facts about the gospel, but until the Spirit convicts of sin, no one is converted. Many people enjoy studying the Bible. Their knowledge of the Scripture is vast. Yet, although they are knowledgeable of the Scripture, it has made no impact on their lives because they will not allow the Spirit to work within them.

The purpose of his preaching (vv. 9-12). Paul explained that he had preached the gospel so that the Corinthians might understand the things of the Spirit of God. Paul said those who are not Christians cannot understand spiritual things. Those are for God's people to understand.

Jesus often referred to this fact after telling a parable. His disciples would ask for an interpretation and Jesus would explain that they were the only ones who could understand the deeper meaning of his teaching. Others could not.

I am sure there have been occasions when you have attempted to describe something of a spiritual nature to a non-Christian and have felt frustrated at his lack of understanding. This is because the Spirit is not within them to illumine their minds for understanding.

Thus, Paul preached to assist the Corinthians in understanding the things of God. That is the ultimate goal of all preaching and teaching — to help us understand what God has to say to us today.

March 5-12 is the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and is the time in which Southern Baptists are encouraged to receive the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Through gifts to this offering, missionaries are able to proclaim the gospel throughout the United States and its territories.

Would you do your part to make it possible for those who have never heard of Jesus to hear the gospel and trust him as Savior?

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Promise of glorious future



By Sylvia Fleming
Jeremiah 30-33

If one were to read Jeremiah 30 and 31 in connection with the books of Daniel and the Revelation, he would have a clear view of Israel's having been temporarily set aside, with a look to her future restoration after the return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

Even though both Israel and Judah were taken captives and Judah was returned after 70 years from Babylon along with a few of Israel, that 70-year return did not fulfill the prophecy of restoration.

Though God's chosen people are widely dispersed, God shall one day gather them from every people, country, and ethnicity. The final blessing of Israel and Judah is not dependent upon the love they have for God, but upon his great, mighty love for them. One day they shall recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Through the wooing of the Holy Spirit, his loving mercy, and kindness, they shall come to know him.

According to Daniel 9:24, there are six events to take place before their final restoration: 1) "... to finish transgressions," their rebelliousness against God; 2) "to make an end of their sins," their habitually sinful life; 3) "to make reconciliation for iniquity," their recognition of Jesus as Messiah; 4) "to bring in everlasting righteousness," to remove their desire to ever again rebel against God; 5) "to seal up the vision and prophecy," never having to search for fulfillment of words from prophets of old because the Jews can now communicate with God for themselves; 6) "to anoint the most holy," to ready for the rebuilding of the millennial temple. When elements of this verse shall come to pass, they shall be gathered, nevermore to be scattered again. God will surely turn their suffering into joy.

In verses 15-17, the tribulation was referred to as Rachel's weeping over the suffering of her children, but then the Lord with his love, tenderness, and compassionate mercy offered consolation. He gave her hope with the promise of the future blessing that would come to pass. They truly will be restored as the tribes come to a state of recognition of and repentance to God.

In verse 22, Israel was referred to as a backsliding daughter in the powerful hands of the Gentiles. When they are restored to their own land, God will make a new covenant based wholly upon grace. They will be the recipients of grace, while God is the Bestower.

"If" had been the key to the old covenant of works. If they did one thing, then God would do another. No way could they ever live up to the legalities. Because of human weaknesses God would forgive their sins and never remember their sins again (31:33-34).

According to Isaiah 66:8, Israel shall be saved in a day because in Zechariah 13:1, national forgiveness and cleansing from sin will be given to the house of David.

There has never been a time in history that one could name when all the prophecies of Chapters 31 and 32 have been fulfilled; thus, one can still look to the future and know that God's dealing with the Jewish tribes will be restored as they are reinstated into their promised land flowing with milk and honey and more abundant blessings than can ever be named.

Isaiah 65:23-24 capsulizes those blessings: "They shall not labor in vain... for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Worship, not ritual



By Michael Johnson
Mark 11

In this lesson, we turn to worship. Normally we think of worship as something done in a specific place (the church) at a specific time (Sunday). Our study today challenges this mindset and will encourage us to express genuine worship in our daily lives.

The 11th chapter of Mark details what we have come to know as the Palm Sunday event. The week before he is crucified Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey receiving the praises of the people. The next day Jesus returns to Jerusalem (having spent the night in Bethany) and curses the fig tree, then drives the money changers out of the temple area. These three events give us some insights into the meaning of genuine worship.

Praise. Many have often pondered how those who had so wonderfully welcomed Jesus into the city one day, turned against him clamoring for his crucifixion just a few days later. The answer is found in the same situation where the church goes to worship on Sunday and then lives a life that does not reflect that worship throughout the week. Many times what we praise with our lips has been rejected by our hearts.

Jesus comes into Jerusalem in a very humble way. Roman tradition dictated that a conquering king would enter a city in one of two ways which would announce the terms of the occupation. If the king rode in on a horse, a symbol of war, then the ensuing occupation would be harsh. On the other hand if a donkey was used, a symbol of peace, then a more peaceful co-existence could be expected. One last time Jesus appeals to the people on the basis of his love, humility, and desire to make people whole. Jesus is worthy of our praise.

Reverence. The temple site was believed to contain the very presence of God. Consequently there were very strict rules regarding admittance and procedures as they related to worship. Depending on who you were dictated how far into the temple's inner sanctums you would be allowed to travel. The general progression was as follows (beginning with the outside): Gentiles, women, Israelites, priests, high priest. The event we are studying today takes place in the Court of the Gentiles. In this wide outer space anyone might come. It was, however, the only place that Gentiles were allowed to worship.

Temple authorities, however, declared that they had to sanction all offerings (animal and monetary). Only temple money, for example, could be used and the exchange rate was quite high. Animals brought in for sacrifice had to be inspected and often they were found unworthy. Pilgrims were forced to buy the 'approved' temple offerings at a higher price. All of this activity took place in the space provided for the Court of the Gentiles. No wonder Jesus was so outraged!

Faith. The scene shifts as Jesus is leaving Bethany on the way to Jerusalem. Hungry, Jesus heads toward a fig tree which has leafed, indicating that it is fruit bearing. Upon arrival, however, Jesus discovers that the tree is bare and curses it. The tree can be seen as representing the religious leadership of the day. The temple authorities claimed to be keepers of the faith yet they failed to bear fruit. True faith, Jesus countered, was to hold onto the expectation that God will act and to live one's life according to that expectation.

Prayer. Prayer is one of the real disciplines of true worship. We are told throughout the gospels that Jesus regularly got up early in the mornings so he might be able to spend time in prayer. Prayer involves two basic dimensions. First, we must be willing to take our concerns to God, and second, we must be willing to accept whatever guidance he gives to us. Often we are willing to do the first, but not the second. True worship involves both.

Forgiveness. Verse 25 again reminds us of the twofold relationship that we hold in life and in worship. We have been created to have fellowship with God and others. Should the relationship be broken in one direction, then the other direction will suffer as well. Why do we forgive others? Because God has forgiven us. Only when we live accordingly will God accept our worship.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of *The Village View* is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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capsules

13TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST PRAYS FOR PEACE OF JERUSALEM: NASHVILLE (ABP) — Honoring Holocaust survivors was the theme of the 13th annual "International Christian Prayer Breakfast to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" organized by Southern Baptist layman Ed McAteer. Several thousand people paid \$25 apiece to attend the three-hour event, held Feb. 13 at Nashville's Opryland Hotel in conjunction with the National Religious Broadcasters convention. McAteer, from Memphis, is founder of the Religious Roundtable, sponsor of the breakfast. Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, delivered the invocation. Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Speakers at the prayer breakfast included Elwood McQuaid, president of Friends of Israel; Joe Rogers, former U.S. ambassador to France; Sam Moore, chairman of Thomas Nelson Publishing Co.; Uzi Baram, Israeli tourism minister; Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the U.S.; Yehuda Levy, publisher of the *Jerusalem Post*; and Kaare Kristiansen, a prominent politician in Norway who resigned from the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in protest of giving the award to Yassar Arafat. A statement in the printed program explained that those in attendance agree that a strong Israel is important to U.S. strength. "Bible-believing Christians consider the support of Israel a biblical mandate," it continued. "We believe one of the reasons America has been blessed over the years is because we have stood with Israel."

WIFE OF FORMER RTVC EXEC DIES AT AGE 80: FORT WORTH (BP) — Norma Stevens, wife of former Baptist Radio and Television Commission President Paul Stevens, died Feb. 15 after an illness of several months. The couple, who had been married for 57 years, have lived in Fort Worth since 1955. Richard T. McCartney, retired executive vice president of the RTVC who is now executive consultant to the commission and a longtime friend of the Stevens family, said, "Norma Stevens was a gracious lady. She was a good friend to the staff of the Radio and Television Commission and a faithful Christian and church member. We will miss her. Few people will ever know the many contributions she made to the ministry of Southern Baptists through the Radio and Television Commission."

RTVC NAMES DILLARD AS SENIOR CONSULTANT: FORT WORTH (BP) — Doug Dillard has been named a senior consultant for the Radio and Television Commission. Dillard had since 1991 been vice president of external relations for the RTVC. "Though Doug could have retired this year," said Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, "we've asked him to stay on as a consultant to help us in the area of denominational relations. He has some unique abilities and is well-known throughout the Southern Baptist Convention." Johnson said Dillard would also retain his responsibilities as executive editor of *BEAM International*, the commission's quarterly magazine. A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary, Dillard began his ministry in a traditional way as a country pastor, youth evangelist, and religious educator. In 1965 he pioneered in developing the field of church public relations by establishing his own company, which was called Ministry of Ideas.

TWO PAKISTANI CHRISTIANS SENTENCED TO DEATH: LAHORE, Pakistan (BP) — Pakistani Christians Rehmat Masih and his 14-year-old nephew, Salamat Masih, have been sentenced to death by hanging for allegedly blaspheming Islam's Prophet Muhammad. The two were accused of writing derogatory statements about Muhammad on a wall in Lahore and throwing pieces of paper with insulting words written on them into a Muslim mosque. But witnesses against them reportedly have contradicted each other repeatedly. Further, Salamat Masih, who was only 11 years old at the time of the supposed crime, is said to be illiterate. A third Christian defendant in the case, Manzoor Masih, was murdered by Islamic extremists last April 5 as the three left the High Court in Lahore, where they had been granted bail. One of the two suspects in the killing is the same Muslim cleric who filed the original charges against the three.

Bibliocipher

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JT UINXBVF JT WCIU CIL UBDL: UT WCIU UBDL
UT UINXBVF: ZIN XDSYDLVIC VX IZ LBT QTUX.

QIBC ZIMN: LUTCLJ-LUI.

This week's clue: U Equals W.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three: Twelve.

Don't abandon Somalia, Baptist worker urges

MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP) — The specter of civil war once again looms over Somalia as international relief agencies and United Nations troops abandon their two-year-old effort to restore hope to a nation desolated by famine and clan warfare.

One relief worker who has helped in Somalia for several years fears the last state of Somalia may be worse than the first. But he hopes relief groups will be able to return to their work in a couple of months.

"The world has made up its mind that Somalia is a lost cause," said the worker, who is a Southern Baptist but asked not to be identified for security reasons.

"They see CNN reports and conclude the situation is hopeless. But the world's agenda is not the agenda of God's people. We are hoping to be back in the country by April. Now is the time to redouble our efforts."

No progress has been made toward a political solution to clan rivalries, which are expected to erupt once again into open warfare when a U.S.-led international force completes the evacuation of U.N. troops and civilian relief workers by the end of February. Civil war in the African country

led to a devastating famine in 1992 that claimed an estimated 300,000 lives.

Horrifying images of starving children prompted a multibillion-dollar international effort to restore order to the country. But the stubborn refusal of Somali warlords to cooperate with the peace process has exhausted the patience of world leaders and the generosity of relief donors.

Even though it was intervention by Western countries, considered "Christian" by Islam, that yanked Somalia back from the edge of self-destruction, the only inroads into the country's culture during the past two years have been made by Islamic militants.

Massive infusions of Arab oil wealth — almost all of which came after the famine crisis had been averted — have built schools and provided food for the country's desperate masses. Most Somali women have begun wearing the trademark Muslim veil. At least one Muslim warlord has instituted Islamic law in his area of Mogadishu to prop up his power against rival warlords who have paraded their Muslim fundamentalism.

The evacuation of foreign troops and relief workers will

leave civilians at the mercy of the warlords, said the relief worker. Militant Muslims are stepping into the vacuum.

Relief agencies that have abandoned Mogadishu for now are working with Somali refugees in three neighboring countries and that ministry will continue, the worker said. Refugee numbers may increase dramatically in the next few weeks if fighting forces more civilians to flee the country.

The 1992 civil war created opportunities for residents of the overwhelmingly Muslim country to respond to the gospel. At least two Christian relief groups had been working in Somalia more than 30 years prior to the collapse of the nation. But at the height of the crisis, several other Christian groups responded. In the process of feeding and providing medical care they offered an incarnational Christian witness.

Individual Christians, working with secular aid organizations and U.N. military forces, also made contact with average Somalis — many of whom had never met a Christian face-to-face.

Yet the nation now has fewer Christians than before the war, the relief worker said. As donor support dried up, all the relief groups had to withdraw, often breaking contact between Christian workers and Somali converts. Many Somali Christians fled the turmoil, along with tens of thousands of their Muslim countrymen.

At least four members of the small groups of Somali Christians were killed in 1994 — apparently for their faith in Christ.

For the moment, Islamic extremists appear to be the only outsiders willing to keep pouring resources into the country, the worker said.

Southern Baptists who feel the time has not yet passed to assist Somalia and want to continue incarnational witness can learn how to pray for Somalia and help financially by calling the Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-866-FMB1.



OVERCOMING TRAGEDY — The luminous smiles of Somali refugee Bedria and her daughter Fatma belie the tragedy and danger they have endured — the deaths of two other children, a harrowing journey to Yemen, and near-death at the end of the journey. Bedria, who helped other refugees at the camp in Yemen where she lived (at the time this photo was taken in 1992), told Southern Baptists there she was "blessed by God" to have any children left alive. She told of one man who lost seven of his children. (BP photo by Rodney Armstrong)

Baptist Record

March 2, 1995

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